



FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Arrests Made in Arson at Elk Grove School

Elk Grove, CA – Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department investigators arrested three high school students today for an August fire at an Elk Grove school.

Three male students, two juniors and one senior, were taken into custody shortly after 10 this morning at Franklin High School for a fire last month at Arlene Hein Elementary School. Both schools are located in Elk Grove's East Franklin area. Evidence collected at the scene led investigators to one of the suspects. Two additional students were identified during the investigation. All three were transported to juvenile hall to await arraignment.

The suspects have been charged under Penal Code section 451(b), *Arson to an Inhabited Structure*. This is a felony offense punishable by up to 3-7 years in juvenile hall. As minors, the names of these students are not available for release. According to fire investigators, none of the suspects have a record for prior offenses.

The fire started on the rooftop of Arlene Hein's multi-purpose room shortly after midnight on August 11. CSD fire crews responded to the scene and extinguished the fire before significant fire damage occurred. Smoke damage was sustained in parts of the multi-purpose room's interior. Damage estimates were not available through the Fire Department.

Today's arrests were made possible through cooperation between the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department and the Elk Grove Unified School District. Both agencies are eligible to pursue cost recovery for expenses related to damages, fire suppression, and investigation. Generally, the burden of these costs can be transferred to the parents or legal guardians of a minor, if convicted.

The Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) is an independent public agency that oversees all parks, recreation, fire protection, and emergency medical services within a 106 square mile district, including the city of Elk Grove. Visit the CSD web site at www.egcsd.ca.gov and subscribe to the Friends of the CSD e-mail service to receive the latest news and special updates on CSD issues, events and activities.

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